

Report title	Outcome of Care Leavers' Survey 2018	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paul Sweet Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Children and Young People in Care – Transitions Team	
Accountable employee(s)	Caron Kilworth Tel Email	Team Manager 01902 553003 caron.kilworth@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Children and Young People in Care Management Team CYP Leadership Team	17 October 2018

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Consider the report and provide feedback on the City of Wolverhampton Council Annual Care Leavers' Survey 2018

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To provide an overview of the City of Wolverhampton's Care Leaver Annual Survey Analysis Report 2018:

- To review the impact and achievements of the Children and Young People in Care Transitions service, and how service delivery has improved outcomes for Care Leavers.
- To present the new action plan which we will continue to drive forward local service provision

2.0 Background

2.1 The former New Belongings project which the City of Wolverhampton was a part of was an ambitious initiative aimed at raising the expectations and aspirations of all young people transitioning from care.

2.2 The Annual Care Leavers' survey stemmed from this out of a desire to ensure Wolverhampton are providing the best possible service to young people who were transitioning to adulthood. The evaluation and analysis of the survey informs the action plan to ensure that the provision available is progressive and purposeful. The information gathered will inform the priorities of the service and identify actions around any shortfalls.

2.3 The annual care leaver survey analysis which is attached details the performance of the City of Wolverhampton Children and Young People in Care Transition service in the year July 2017 – June 2018. The report outlines the progress made and the areas of improvement needed over the next 12 months. The improvements required will be actioned and reviewed regularly via the Children and Young People in Care management meeting and the Care Leavers' Forum.

3.0 Progress

3.1 The care leaver survey has assessed the impact of the action plan formulated 2017 - 2018 for Wolverhampton care leavers. 41 young people took part, which was a decrease by - 32 compared to the figure last year which totalled 73. The main cohort that responded to the survey was aged between 17 and 19 years. The participation rate was hugely disappointing and requires far greater effort being made to ensure young people within the service completed the survey.

3.2 The survey showed the main strengths were as follows:

- 75.61% of young people knew about the Care Leavers' Forum compared to 64% last year.
- 95% of care leavers reported that they have a good relationship with their Young Person's Advisor (YPA); an improvement on last year from 78%
- 97.56% of the young people reported that they are making decisions for themselves regarding their future, an upward trend from last year from 92%

- 96.77% of young people reported that they are getting the right help, an upward trend from last year from 93%
- 93.31% of young people reported that their accommodation is meeting their needs
- 100/% of young people reported that they felt safe in their accommodation. An upward trend from 90% last year
- 90% of young people reported that they feel adequately supported with money and budgeting
- 100% of young people feel supported with health and wellbeing an upward trend from 96% last year
- 83% rated the care leaving service was good
- 72.22% reported that they would wish to remain open to the CAYPIC Transitions Service, post 21. An upward trend from last year from 63%

4.0 Areas for Improvement

4.1 Social workers, Young Person's Advisors, including foster carers and residential staff who need to understand the relevance of Young People participating in the survey to support the continuous efforts to improve service delivery.

- Targeted efforts need to be made to ascertain feedback from young people residing in residential and Host placements which recorded zero response in both these areas
- The question relating to the Leaving Care Forum indicated that a high proportion of young people were unclear about the purpose of the forum. 24.39% did not know about the care leaver forum, and 97.06% of young people who knew about the forum did not attend. Of that number 2.63% stated they were unsure of what the forum was about. 10.53% stated they lived out of city and 10.53% reported other reasons
- The newsletter needs to be improved relaunched and available to all.
- 62.50% of young people do not attend the Drop-In provision at The Way on Friday afternoons.

4.2 The results were collated and analysed; care leavers stated that the following improvements needed to be made during 2018 -2019. Four areas that Children and Young People in Care Transitions Service need to do better:

- Age range of survey needs to be reviewed to reflect care leavers transitioning into adult life. The care leavers survey should be designed to focus entirely on seeking the views of young people who are 16 plus care leavers.
- The care leavers offer should be fully embedded into the Pathway Plan.
- The newsletter needs to be available to all and easily accessible.
- Increase range of activities provided in addition to The Way and Indi Group.

- 4.3 The care leaver survey action plan 2018-2019 has been formulated taking into consideration the results of the care leaver survey and the views taken from the young people at the Care Leavers' Forum.
- 4.4 It is expected that efforts to address the above points will decrease barriers for care leavers in the community.
- 4.5 The high proportion of care leavers who wish to remain open to Children and Young People in Care post 21 is a clear indication that ongoing support is still required. It is essential that in future years social workers and Young People's Advisors work with young people to advise them of the benefits of completing the survey and offer appropriate encouragement to do so.
- 4.6 The survey revealed poor attendance within the Drop-In provision provided at The Way and Indy Group, and could suggest that there needs to be more scope and diverse groups to attract and accommodate the needs of our Care Leavers. The survey has evidenced that there is a need to improve and revisit the service provision currently available. We need to use this opportunity to work collaboratively with Care Leavers to develop and redesign services which are more innovative and exciting. A provision which inspires greater participation and desire to become involved and ultimately for young people to feel a sense of belonging which will go a long way in assisting and supporting our care leavers to make that all important transition into adult life.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The total approved budget for the Transitions Service for 2018-2019 is £2.4 million.
- 5.2 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.
[NM/15112018/R]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
[TC/13112018/N]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 The equalities impact assessment has been completed and attached as an appendix

8.0 Environmental implications

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications

9.0 Human resources implications

- 9.1 There are no human resource implications

10.0 Corporate Landlord implications

10.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications

11.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

11.1 There are no Health and Wellbeing implications

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 Equalities Impact Assessment

13.0 Appendices

13.1 Care Leaver Survey Report: Appendix 1